

.....

Head lice are common and communicable and may spread in any situation where individuals gather and are in close contact. From time to time, students enrolled in schools may be infested with head lice. It is important to note that the presence of head lice on a student is not a reflection on the level of cleanliness or parenting/guardian skills in a home. Head lice do not transmit disease and are primarily a nuisance factor because of the itching and irritation they cause. Therefore, an outbreak of head lice in a school should not be the cause of exaggerated alarm and normal school activities should not be cancelled because of head lice.

The Board recognizes that the responsibility for identification, control and treatment of head lice is a joint responsibility of the parent, the school and Municipal Health Department staff.

1. The school principal, in cooperation with the Community Health Nurse, will ensure that a head lice control plan is developed at each school in the event that there may be an outbreak at the school. The head lice control plan should include guidelines for the following activities:
  - a. Training for school staff and /or parent/guardian/community volunteers in the identification and examination of students for head lice;
  - b. A process for examining individual students and their contacts who are suspected of having head lice;
  - c. A process for following students known to have repeated infestations of head lice;
  - d. An information meeting for parents/guardians on the topic including identification, examination and treatment methods

2. Once a student, or a number of students, has been identified as being infested with head lice, the control and treatment of head lice becomes a joint responsibility of the parents/guardians